Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Four times amended) An acrylic composition comprising a matrix of polymethyl methacrylate [having dispersed within it particles], said matrix being present in an amount of about 80 to about 95 weight percent of the acrylic composition and having dispersed within it particles comprising

[75 to 90] about 80 to 88 weight percent polymethyl methacrylate, and

[greater than 10 to 25] 12 to about 20 weight percent of a comonomer [comprising an ethylenically unsaturated monomer] that copolymerizes with methyl methacrylate selected from the group consisting of C_2-C_8 alkyl acrylates and C_2-C_8 alkyl methacrylates, and

wherein said particles further comprise more than 0.4 weight percent [of a crosslinker] to about 1.0 weight percent of a crosslinker, said particles are present in an amount of about 5 to about 20 weight percent of the acrylic composition, and have a particle size of about 250 to 600 microns prior to mixing said particles with said matrix.

Kindly cancel claim 2.

3. (Once amended) An acrylic composition as in claim 1, wherein said comononer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl [metharcylate] methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate and isobutyl methacrylate.

4. An acrylic composition as in claim 3, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate.

5. An acrylic composition as in claim 1, wherein said crosslinker is selected from the

group consisting of allyl methacrylate, allyl acrylate, triallyl phosphate, diallyl maleate, methallyl acrylate, vinyl methacrylate, divinyl benzene, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

6. An acrylic composition as in claim 5, wherein said crosslinker is ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

7. (Once amended) An acrylic composition as in claim 1, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of about 0.5 to about 1.5 weight percent.

8. (Once amended) An acrylic composition as in claim 7, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of about 0.6 to about 1.0 weight percent.

Kindly cancel claims 9-19.

20. A method of preparing an article comprising:

a) forming an acrylic composition comprising a matrix of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), said matrix being prepared by mixing a PMMA syrup which contains about 25% by weight of PMMA solids with excess methyl methacrylate monomer, said matrix of polymethyl methacrylate having dispersed within it particles comprising about 80 to about 90 weight percent polymethyl methacrylate and greater than 10 to about 20 weight percent of a comonomer comprising an ethylenically unsaturated monomer that copolymerizes with methyl methacrylate, wherein said particles further comprise more than 0.4 weight percent of a crosslinker, and said particles have a particle size of about 250 to 600 microns prior to mixing said particles with said matrix;

b) curing said acrylic composition; and

c) thermoforming the cured acrylic composition.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said comononer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate and isobutyl methacrylate.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein said crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of allyl methacrylate, allyl acrylate, triallyl phosphate, diallyl maleate, methallyl acrylate, vinyl methacrylate, divinyl benzene, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said crosslinker is ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of about 0.5 to about 1.5 weight percent.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said crosslinker is used in an amount of about 0.6 to about 1.0 weight percent.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein said particles are present in an amount of about 5 to about 20 weight percent of the acrylic composition.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein said matrix is present in an amount of about 80 to about 95 percent of the acrylic composition.

29. A method of preparing an article comprising:

a) forming a curable acrylic composition comprising a matrix of polymethyl methacyrlate, said matrix of polymethyl methacrylate having dispersed within it particles comprising:

about 80 to about 90 weight percent of polymethyl methacrylate;

greater than 10 to about 20 weight percent of a comonomer comprising an ethylenically unsaturated monomer that copolymerises with methyl methacrylate;

more than 0.4 weight percent of a crosslinker;

said particles have a particle size of about 250 to 600 microns prior to mixing said particles with said matrix

b) curing said acrylic composition; and

c) thermoforming the cured acrylic composition.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of C_2 to C_8 alkyl acrylates and C_2 to C_8 alkyl methacrylates.

31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate and isobutyl methacrylate.

32. A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said comonomer is selected from the group consisting of butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate.

33. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of allyl methacrylate, allyl acrylate, triallyl phosphate, diallyl maleate, methallyl acrylate, vinyl methacrylate, divinyl benzene, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

34. A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said crosslinker is ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

35. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said crosslinker is present in an amount of about 0.5 to about 1.5 weight percent.

36. A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said crosslinker is present in an amount of about 0.6 to about 1.0 weight percent.

37. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said particles are present in an amount of about 5 to about 20 weight percent of the acrylic composition.

38. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said matrix is present in an amount of about 80 to about 95 weight percent of the acrylic composition.

39. A thermoformed article having a granite appearance prepared by the method of claim 29.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.173 (c)

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-8 and 20-39 are currently pending.

Claims 2 and 9-19 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 8 have been amended.

New claims 20-39 have been added.

Support for the amendments

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 may be found at, *e.g.*,

Column 2 line 61 to column 4, line 20; and

Column 4, lines 52-58.

Support for the new claims

Support for new claims 20-39 may be found at, *e.g.*,

Column 2 line 61 to column 4, line 20;

Column 4, lines 52-58; and

Column 5, lines 5-21.